

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
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Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Depression Harvey - Update #13  
Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 6:18:42 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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## **EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Depression Harvey - Update #13**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Report as of August 31, 2017 at 1920 EDT**

**Overview:** As of 1100 EDT, Tropical Depression Harvey was located about 35 miles east of Monroe, Louisiana with maximum sustained winds of 20 miles per hour (mph). Harvey is moving toward the northeast and is expected to move across northern Mississippi by the evening of August 31, middle Tennessee by September 1, and into the Ohio Valley States on September 2. Harvey is expected to produce 3 to 5 inches of rain from far eastern Arkansas, northern Mississippi, western and central Tennessee, western through central Kentucky, and into West Virginia. Locally higher totals of 6 to 10 inches are possible across northern Mississippi, western Tennessee into southwest Kentucky. Flash flood warnings and watches and flood warnings and advisories are in effect from eastern Texas through parts of the lower Mississippi, western Tennessee and lower Ohio Valleys.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** FEMA has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and deployed National and several regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs). FEMA's Region VI RRCC is also at Level 1. The Texas, Louisiana, and New Orleans EOCs are at full activation. The Texas and Louisiana National Guards have been activated.

### **EPA Actions:**

#### **EPA Region 6:**

The Region 6 Emergency Operations Center is currently activated and is working under a limited FEMA Disaster Declaration Mission Assignment (MA). In addition, EPA has received an MA to assist the State of Texas with drinking water, wastewater, and Hazmat recovery operations.

### **Texas**

The Governor declared a State of Disaster for 50 counties in Texas.

Region 6 deployed two On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) on August 25 in support of the State through this ESF. One OSC deployed to the FEMA Regional Response Center in Denton and the second OSC to the State of Texas Operations Center in Austin.

Region 6 is coordinating with counterparts in Beaumont/Port Arthur, Texas in charge of potential response activities including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Beaumont, the Texas General Land Office in Nederland, and the U.S. Coast Guard in Port Arthur. All agencies are limited in their ability to conduct assessments due to the flood waters that continue to rise. Flood waters are predicted to crest over the weekend and response partners plan to initiate Rapid Needs and Shoreline assessments next week.

The Conoco Phillips facility in Cuero, Texas reported a 316-barrel oil spill due to Hurricane Harvey. The spill impacted Denton Creek. This was originally reported on August 29. No sheen of oil was observed, but the water flowed at a good pace. Waters are receding in the area and personnel will likely be able to access the facility to better assess the release and perform a response in the next day or so. Conoco Phillips is updating their release totals to 385 barrels of oil and 76-barrel produced water since the tanks are on their side.

An EPA Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) vehicle is enroute from North Carolina to assist with air monitoring in the impacted areas throughout Texas and is scheduled to arrive by September 1. Colorado PHILIS mobile units will be deploying to Corpus Christi. ASPECT has been deployed to assess the conditions at the Arkema chemical facility in Crosby. The aircraft flew August 30 and August 31 and is processing gathered data. ASPECT will then proceed to Corpus Christi to assist with response activities.

### **Louisiana**

The Governor declared a State of Emergency for all parishes. To date, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has not set up its IMT and does not plan to unless something significantly changes. The main focus for Louisiana is supporting individuals evacuating from impacted areas in Texas. EPA continues to monitor the situation in Louisiana and stay in close communication with LDEQ.

### **Industrial Sources**

On August 31, two explosions were reported at the Arkema Chemical Facility. Arkema is a Risk Management Plan (RMP) facility that manufactures liquid organic peroxides and has sulfur dioxide (anhydrous) and 2-methylpropene present on site. EPA has deployed an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the scene. The EPA HQ EOC is issuing separate reporting for this incident.

EPA is working with TCEQ to contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and what support can be provided with the monitoring of the start-up of industrial sources along the coast of Texas.

### **Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments**

The Region 6 Drinking and Wastewater Team mobilized on August 30, 2017 to Corpus Christi to assist with drinking water and waste water field assessments. TCEQ reported that 185 water systems have Boil Water Notices (BWN) in place and three BWN have been lifted. Fifty-three (53) drinking water systems and 22 waste water systems have been shut down. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reported that three water systems are on a Boil Water Advisory, and one water system is currently out of service in Calcasieu Parish.

The City of Beaumont, Texas has lost service from the main pump station. Beaumont, which has a population of more than 100,000 people, lost both its main and secondary water supplies on August 30. The storm caused the Neches River to overflow, which damaged the city's water pumps, according to city officials. The city's secondary water source, which is located at the Loeb wells in Hardin County, is also offline. City officials said the outage is indefinite, pending inspection of the damaged pumps, which they are unable to do until the water recedes.

#### **EPA Laboratory / Analytical Services**

The Houston laboratory is reporting that they will be closed until September 5. The laboratory and office buildings are not damaged. EPA has back up capabilities for laboratory services should the Houston facility remain closed.

#### **Data Management**

Two National Data Team members have been deployed and are expected to arrive in Corpus Christi by September 1.

#### **Communications**

EPA's EOC PIO is working across the Agency to develop fact sheets related to EPA's response activities, and coordinating with FEMA/ESF-15 on external messaging and communications.

#### **Refineries/Fuel Waivers**

EPA continues to receive and approve, as appropriate, fuel waiver requests.

#### **EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM):**

The HQ EOC activated on August 28 and is at Level 1 operations. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with Region 6 and other Federal Agencies. The HQ EOC has deployed personnel to the FEMA NRCC to staff the ESF #10 Watch. The HQ EOC has transitioned to a Daily Management Report that will capture response activities in greater detail.

#### **EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)**

EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) is sending 25 special agents as a Quick Reaction Team (QRT) to south TX to support the response to Harvey. The response is managed as part of ESF-13. Currently QRTs are being deployed to provide law enforcement support search and rescue operations, medical assistance teams and mortuary teams during the initial response phase of the response to Harvey. The EPA CID QRT is anticipated to be deployed September 1st, to the affected area for approximately one week.

#### **Media Interest: High**

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/harvey-danger-major-chemical-plant-near-houston-likely-explode-facility-n797581>

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/08/31/houston-rescuers-start-block-by-block-search-homes-flooded-by-tropical-storm-harvey.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/08/31/harveys-wrath-moves->

[across-the-louisiana-texas-border-as-water-recedes-in-houston/?hpid=hp\\_hp-banner-main\\_harvey-1245am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.f5928cebcb63](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/31/us/harvey-houston-texas-flood.html)

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**Note: The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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